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May 1988

Railway Age

...for the new age of railways and rail transit

BN and ARES: "Control" in a new dimension

Regional Railroad Planner's Guide

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Features

REGIONAL RAILROAD PLANNER'S GUIDE

Rx for regionals RR7

Why do some short lines and regionals flourish while others falter? There are no easy answers but an examination of the planning and operating practices of key properties provides some clues.

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Market Outlook

Equipment

Canadian National: Placed orders for 90 locomotives valued at $180 million (Canadian) with two builders—Diesel Division of General Motors of Canada Ltd., which will deliver 60 3,800-hp, SD-60F units starting in this year's fourth quarter; and General Electric of Erie, Pa., which is to supply 30 4,000-hp, Dash-8 units beginning in the first quarter of 1990. CN also plans to lease 20 2,000-hp, GP-38 units from the Diesel Division of General Motors for three months during the period of peak locomotive demand next winter.

Santa Fe: Ordered 20 3,900-hp GP60 diesel-electric units from General Motors' Electro-Motive Division and 20 4,000-hp B40-8 units from General Electric. GM was to begin delivery in May, GE in June. The four-axle units will be used primarily in high-speed intermodal service.

Facilities

BC Rail: Has budgeted $99.1 million (Canadian) for capital improvements in 1988, of which $73.5 million is earmarked for track and roadway. This compares with actual capital expenditures of $72.6 million in 1987.

CSX Transportation: Has budgeted $540 million for 1988 capital improvements, of which $224.8 million is earmarked for track. Major track projects include laying of 200 miles of new rail and 400 miles of relay rail; installation of 1.8 million wooden crossties and 50,000 concrete ties; and surfacing of 8,700 track miles.

Los Angeles County Transportation Commission: Awarded a $14-million prime contract to Transcontrol and Ansaldo Trasporti, in joint venture, to supply a complete signaling system for the Long Beach-Los Angeles light rail project.

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority: Awarded a $12.7-million contract to General Railway Signal for automatic train control equipment for approximately four miles of the "E" and "F" routes in the District of Columbia. This contract brings the total miles of the WMATA system under GRS contracts to 81.

Revenue freight carloadings

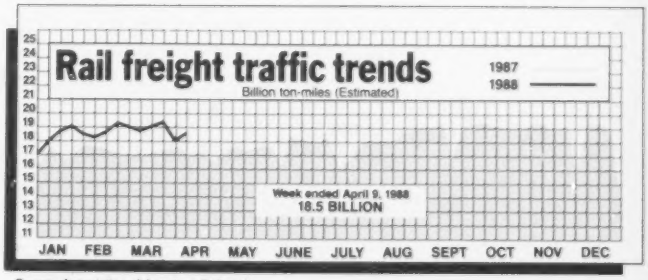
Commodity	Apr. 9 week	Apr. 2 week	Mar. 26 week	Mar. 19 week
Grain	33,710	33,520	35,763	34,733
Other farm products	3,641	3,101	3,421	3,359
Metallic ores	17,076	15,802	13,820	14,246
Coal	117,390	110,558	123,143	118,038
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	16,404	15,025	15,934	14,066
Nonmetallic minerals	10,180	9,396	9,927	9,630
Grain mill products	10,454	9,824	10,715	10,113
Food and kindred products	10,608	10,523	11,077	10,859
Primary forest products	9,373	9,464	10,257	10,131
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,786	8,422	8,533	8,230
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,287	12,394	12,692	12,322
Chemicals and allied products	28,920	26,226	29,196	28,605
Petroleum products	5,257	4,278	4,999	5,050
Stone, clay and glass products	11,132	10,530	11,156	10,956
Coke	6,023	5,321	5,655	5,460
Metals and products	10,298	11,886	11,073	10,806
Motor vehicles and equipment	18,409	17,492	21,417	21,489
Waste and scrap materials	8,776	9,205	10,106	10,474
Forwarder and shipper assn. traffic	2,412	2,665	2,584	2,462
All other carloads	74,736	79,613	79,595	81,322
Total Cars Loaded	**414,881**	**405,245**	**414,881**	**422,351**
% change from previous year	3.6	4.2	3.6	4.7
Estimated revenue ton-miles (billions)	18.5	18.0	18.5	19.0
% change from previous year	5.8	6.9	5.8	6.1

Total:	1988	1987	% change
13 weeks	241.6	226.4	6.7

Piggyback loadings

	April 2 week	March 26 week	March 19 week	March 12 week
Trailers/containers	108,169	109,784	108,756	118,630

Cumulative total, 13 weeks		% change from 1987
Trailers/containers	1,394,964	4.9


Rail freight traffic trends
Billion ton-miles (Estimated)
1987
1988
Week ended April 9, 1988
18.5 BILLION
JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC

Source: Association of American Railroads

Freight cars

	DELIVERED 1st quarter 1988	DELIVERED 1st quarter 1987	ORDERED 1st quarter 1988	ORDERED 1st quarter 1987	ON ORDER AND UNDELIVERED April 1, 1988	ON ORDER AND UNDELIVERED April 1, 1987
Built new by carbuilders	4,457	2,687	7,209	3,860	12,692	3,850
Built new in RR shops	0	0	35	0	35	0
Built new—total	**4,457**	**2,687**	**7,244**	**3,860**	**12,727**	**3,850**
Rebuilt	0	0	101	0	281	0
TOTAL	**4,457**	**2,687**	**7,345**	**3,860**	**13,008**	**3,850**
Locomotives (new and rebuilt)	84	22	N/A	N/A	120	30

Source: Transportation Div., AAR and American Railway Car Institute